

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 16, amend claims 1, 3-15, and 17-20, and add claim 21.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for execution by a client apparatus, connected to a communication network, to receive content data, said method comprising:

a step of receiving, from an external content supplier, content data and first management information that enables trial use of the content data and then storing the received content data and first management information in memory;

a step of, in response to operation of a user of said client apparatus desiring normal use of the content data stored in said memory, issuing a normal use request to a server apparatus connected to the communication network;

a step of receiving, via the communication network, second management information supplied by said server apparatus in response to the normal use request, said second management information authorizing the normal use of the content data; [[and]]

a step of, in response to reception of said second management information from said server apparatus, replacing said first management information corresponding to the content data of which the normal use is requested, stored in said memory, with said second management information and

a reproduction control step of, when desired content data is to be reproduced by said client apparatus, reproducing the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproducing the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, [2]] wherein said second management information is stored in said memory after being encrypted, using[[,]] as an encryption key[[,]] predetermined information specific to said client apparatus, and which further ~~comprises~~ includes a step of, when said second management information encrypted and stored in said memory is to be read out from said memory for reproduction of the desired content data, decrypting said second management information, using[[,]] as a decryption key, the predetermined information specific to said client apparatus.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said external content ~~supply means~~ supplier is a recording medium storing the content data and said first management information that enables trial use of the content data, and said recording medium is removably attached to said client apparatus.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said external content supplier is a storage device storing the content data and said first management information that enables trial use of the content data, and said storage device is connected to said server apparatus ~~or said communication network~~.
6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the content data supplied by said external supplier is data encrypted in a predetermined manner, and which further includes ~~comprises~~ a step of decrypting the encrypted content data using a common decryption key.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the content data supplied by said server apparatus is data encrypted in a predetermined manner, and which further ~~comprises~~ includes a step of decrypting the encrypted content data using a common decryption

key.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~same management information is used as~~ said first management information and said second management information are identical to each other in data organization, said data organization ~~same management information~~ including data of limitation information for providing trial use of desired content data and data of regular use information indicative of whether allowability/non-allowability of regular use of desired content data is "allowable" or "non-allowable", the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates "non-allowable" and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates "allowable", and wherein,

when the data of regular use information indicates "non-allowable", ~~said same management information functions as said first management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used only on a trial basis in accordance with the limitation information, ~~while, and~~ when the data of regular use information indicates "allowable", ~~said same information functions as said second management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used normally without being limited in accordance with the limitation information.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for execution by a server apparatus to supply content data to a client apparatus connected to a communication network, said method comprising:

a step of receiving, via the communication network, a normal use request of content data from a client apparatus having already stored therein the content data and first management information that enables trial use of the content data; and

a transmission step of determining, in response to the normal use request received from

said client apparatus, whether the normal use of the content data is allowable or non-allowable, and transmitting second management information authorizing the normal use of the content data to said client apparatus via the communication network if the normal use of the content data has been determined as allowable, wherein[[,]]

in response to reception of said second management information from said server apparatus, said client apparatus replaces said first management information, corresponding to the content data of which the normal use is requested, with said second management information, so that the normal use of the content data is permitted, and

said client apparatus reproduces the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproduces the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, ~~which~~ further comprises including an encryption step of encrypting said second management information to be transmitted to said client apparatus, using[[,]] as an encryption key[[,]] predetermined information specific to said client apparatus, and wherein said transmission step transmits said second management information encrypted by said encryption step to said client apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said server apparatus includes memory for storing said second management information for a plurality of items of content data, and said transmission step reads out, from said memory, said second management information of content data of which the normal use has been determined as allowable.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~same management information is used as~~ said first management information and said second management

information are identical to each other in data organization, said data organization same management information including data of limitation information for providing trial use of desired content data and data of regular use information indicative of whether allowability/non-allowability of regular use of desired content data is “allowable” or “non-allowable”, the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates “non-allowable” and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates “allowable”, the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates “non-allowable” and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates “allowable”, and wherein[[,]]

when the data of regular use information indicates "non-allowable", ~~said same management information functions as said first management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used only on a trial basis in accordance with the limitation information, ~~while, and~~ when the data of regular use information indicates "allowable", ~~said same information functions as said second management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used normally without being limited in accordance with the limitation information.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having included thereon program code including containing a group of instructions which when executed [[to]] cause a computer of a client apparatus to perform a method for execution by the client apparatus, connected to a communication network, to receive content data, said method comprising:

a step of receiving, from an external content supplier, content data and first management information that enables trial use of the content data and then storing the received content data and first management information in memory;

a step of, in response to operation of a user of said client apparatus desiring normal use of the content data stored in said memory, issuing a normal use request to a server apparatus connected to the communication network; a step of receiving, via the communication network, second management information supplied by said server apparatus in response to the normal use request, said second management information authorizing the normal use of the content data; [[and]]

a step of, in response to reception of said second management information from said server apparatus, replacing said first management information corresponding to the content data of which the normal use is requested, stored in said memory, with said second management information; and

a reproduction control step of, when desired content data is to be reproduced by said client apparatus, reproducing the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproducing the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having included thereon program code including containing a group of instructions which when executed [[to]] cause a computer of a server apparatus to perform a method for execution by said server apparatus to supply content data to a client apparatus connected to a communication network, said method comprising:

a step of receiving, via the communication network, a normal use request of content data from a client apparatus having already stored therein the content data and first management information that enables trial use of the content data; and

a transmission step of determining, in response to the normal use request received from said client apparatus, whether the normal use of the content data is allowable or non-allowable, and transmitting second management information authorizing the normal use of the content data to said client apparatus via the communication network if the normal use of the content data has been determined as allowable, wherein[[,]]

in response to reception of said second management information from said server apparatus, said client apparatus replaces said first management information, corresponding to the content data of which the normal use is requested, with said second management information, so that the normal use of the content data is permitted, and

said client apparatus reproduces the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproduces the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

15. (Currently Amended) A client apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores content data and first management information supplied by an external content supplier, said first management information enabling trial use of the content data; and

a processing device coupled with said storage device and adapted to:

in response to operation of a user of said client apparatus desiring normal use of the content data stored in said memory, issue a normal use request to a server apparatus connected to a communication network;

via the communication network, receive second management information supplied by said server apparatus in response to the normal use request, said second management

information authorizing the normal use of the content data; [[and]]

in response to reception of said second management information, replace said first management information corresponding to the content data of which the normal use is requested, stored in said memory, with said second management information; and

when desired content data is to be reproduced by said client apparatus, reproduce the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproduce the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A server apparatus connectable to a client apparatus via a communication network, said server apparatus comprising:

a receiver that receives, via the communication network, a normal use request of content data from a client apparatus having already stored therein the content data and first management information that enables trial use of the content data; a transmitter; and

a processor coupled with said receiver and said transmitter, said processor adapted to:

in response to the normal use request received from the client apparatus, determine whether the normal use of the content data is allowable or non-allowable; and

transmit second management information authorizing the normal use of the content data to the client apparatus via said transmitter and the communication network if the normal use of the content data has been determined as allowable, wherein[[,]]

in response to reception of said second management information from said server apparatus, said client apparatus replaces said first management information, corresponding to the



content data of which the normal use is requested, with said second management information, so that the normal use of the content data is permitted, and

said client apparatus reproduces the content data on a trial basis with a limited reproduction function if said first management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced, and reproduces the content data normally with no reproduction function limitation if said second management information is attached to the content data to be reproduced.

18. (Currently Amended) A server apparatus as claimed in claim 17, ~~which further comprises~~ including a memory storing said second management information for a plurality of items of content data, and said transmission step reads out, from said memory, said second management information of content data of which the normal use has been determined as allowable.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein ~~same management information is used as~~ said first management information and said second management information are identical to each other in data organization, said data organization same management information including data of limitation information for providing trial use of desired content data and data of regular use information indicative of whether allowability/non-allowability of regular use of desired content data is "allowable" or "non-allowable", the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates "non-allowable" and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates "allowable", the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates "non-allowable" and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates "allowable", and wherein[[,]]

when the data of regular use information indicates "non-allowable", said ~~same management information functions as said first management information functions to allow~~

desired content data is allowed to be used only on a trial basis in accordance with the limitation information, ~~while, and~~

when the data of regular use information indicates "allowable", said ~~same information functions as said second management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used normally without being limited in accordance with the limitation information.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein ~~same management information is used as said first management information and said second management information~~ are identical to each other in data organization, said data organization ~~same management information~~ including data of limitation information for providing trial use of desired content data and data of regular use information indicative of whether ~~allowability/non-~~ allowability of regular use of desired content data is "allowable" or "non-allowable", the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates "non-allowable" and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates "allowable", the data of regular use information included in said first management information indicates "non-allowable" and the data of regular use information included in said second management information indicates "allowable", and wherein[[,]]

when the data of regular use information indicates "non-allowable", said ~~same management information functions as said first management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used only on a trial basis in accordance with the limitation information, ~~while, and~~

when the data of regular use information indicates "allowable", said ~~same information functions as said second management information functions to allow~~ desired content data is allowed to be used normally without being limited in accordance with the limitation information.

21. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said external content supplier is a storage device storing the content data and said first management information that enables trial use of the content data, and said storage device is connected to said communication network.

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